

# The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society  
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

[www.skagitaudubon.org](http://www.skagitaudubon.org)

Vol. 37 No. 3

## MARCH FIELD TRIPS

By Libby Mills

### About the field trips

Beginning birders and friends are always welcome on Skagit Audubon field trips. Membership in Skagit Audubon is encouraged but not required for participation. Please be prepared for the weather with suitable clothing, and bring field guides, binoculars, and spotting scopes. Carpool whenever possible and contribute to the driver's expense. Watch the email reminders for the latest information, including any changes and/or additions to the field trip schedule. To be added to the email distribution list contact Libby Mills:

[libbymills@gmail.com](mailto:libbymills@gmail.com)

**If you plan to join a field trip some place other than the described starting point**, call the trip leader the day before to ensure a successful rendezvous. Trip plans may change.

**Tuesday, March 6, 2018**

**Transition of the Birds**

**Padilla Bay and Samish Flats**

**8:00 am – 11:00 am approx.**

Join us on a Tuesday morning to get in an end-of-winter raptors field trip. If we wait  
*Field trips continued on pg. 4*

## MARCH MEETING AND PROGRAM

"Four Seasons of the Malheur"

Presenter: Don Jonasson

Tuesday, Mar. 13, 2018

7:00 Social; 7:30 Program

Padilla Bay Interpretive Ctr.

10441 Bayview Edison Rd.

Mt. Vernon, Washington



One of my retirement passions is making videos, particularly for nonprofits that need but can't afford to hire the expensive process. In 2012 Ora and I volunteered to make a video of the four seasons of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge near Burns OR.

MNWR is a major rest and refuel place in the most northern end of the Great Basin, a central part of the Pacific Flyway. Especially in the spring migration, runoff from surrounding mountains fills the many lakes and ponds and farmers purposefully flood fields to saturate the ground, attracting huge numbers of migrating birds, especially waterfowl. But all of the seasons have their unique colors, moods, sounds and wildlife behaviors. To enhance this multisensory experience Ora composed musical themes for the Malheur and each season, then organized a local wind trio to perform the music accompaniment.

The video will be for sale with all proceeds going to Friends of the MNWR.

**PUBLIC COMMENT DEADLINE MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup>**  
**Proposed 5-Year National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (this includes Washington State)**  
**Submit comments online and for more information:**  
<https://www.boem.gov/National-OCS-Program/>



# SKAGIT AUDUBON

## Board of Directors

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Barn Swallow, by Ron Holmes

## MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTIONS

**General membership meetings of the Skagit Audubon Society** are held at the Padilla Bay Interpretive Center, 10441 Bayview-Edison Rd., Mt. Vernon, WA—7:00 PM Social/ 7:30 PM Program—on the second Tuesday of each month, September through June. The board of directors meets at the same location at 7:00 PM on the first Tuesday of each month.

**Skagit Audubon Society (SAS) membership** provides a local chapter affiliation and newsletter, **The Flyer**, for individuals who want all their funds to benefit their local chapter. Newsletters from additional chapters can be sought by contacting their websites and membership chairs from links at <http://wa.audubon.org/audubon-locations/>. **To join Skagit Audubon Society** use the **1st** form below.

**National Audubon Society (NAS) membership is separate from SAS membership** and includes Audubon magazine. National Audubon membership does not provide Skagit Audubon membership; however, NAS will assign you an affiliation with a local chapter. To change your chapter assignment call 800-274-4201. **To join National Audubon Society**, use the **2nd** form below.

**Skagit Audubon Society is a Chapter of the National Audubon Society.** Our mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

### Skagit Audubon Society Membership Form

Annual membership in the Skagit Audubon Society includes 10 issues of our newsletter, *The Skagit Flyer*, available at: <http://www.skagitaudubon.org/newsletter>.

Membership includes all members of your household.

Check one:  \$20.00 one (1) year  \$40.00 two (2) years

Additionally, I wish to donate to Skagit Audubon Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Donations of \$100.00 or more receive a personal field trip by a Skagit Audubon field trip leader.*

Check one:  New Membership  Renewing Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

SAS does not share your contact information.

**Clip form/Mail to/Payable to:** Skagit Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 1101  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-1101

Use the form below to initially join the **National Audubon Society**.

### National Audubon Society Membership Form

Annual membership to the National Audubon Society includes a subscription to *Audubon* magazine. Membership includes all members of your household.

\$20 for one-year introductory membership with one chapter affiliation

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail chapter-created new membership forms to address below: (Payable to same)**

National Audubon Society Y21  
P.O. Box 97194  
Washington, DC 20090-7194  
Attn: Chance Mueleck

For membership related questions and address:  
Email: [customerservice@audubon.org](mailto:customerservice@audubon.org)  
Phone: (844) 428-3826

*For members receiving a paper copy of The Skagit Flyer, the mailing label includes your membership expiration date in the upper right corner. If that date is highlighted in orange it is a reminder that your membership is about to or has expired. All other members will receive an email notice when their membership is about to expire. The Skagit Flyer is published monthly from September through June. Unsolicited material for the next month's Flyer should be sent to the editor by the third Saturday of the current month. For questions or problems about your Skagit Flyer subscription, contact membership chair:*

*Pam Pritzl [membership@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:membership@skagitaudubon.org)*



# SKAGIT AUDUBON HIKING SCHEDULE-MARCH

BY JOAN MELCHER

Hikes continue in March with 4 hikes scheduled. Safety comes first so hikes may be canceled or destinations changed due to weather conditions, logging, construction or other unforeseen circumstances. A hike will be canceled if there are high wind warnings, flooding conditions, snowy or icy road conditions, or forecasts of continued heavy rain. All the hikes are on a Wednesday and for questions or additional information contact Joan Melcher at [jdmelcher@comcast.net](mailto:jdmelcher@comcast.net) or 360.424.0407. Dogs are discouraged on Audubon-sponsored hikes and if dogs are on a hike, they must be on a leash at all times. General safety note: upon arrival at the destination, if cancellation of the hike is determined at the discretion of the Audubon trip leader, any individual who elects to proceed is no longer considered to be a member of an Audubon-sponsored activity. Additionally, carpools are arranged at the discretion of the driver(s).



**MARCH 7: GOOSE ROCK PERIMETER HIKE**-Hike a loop that includes Cranberry Lake, beaches, the south side of Deception Pass, Cornet Bay and a 450 foot climb up Goose Rock. Total elevation gain for the day is about 1150 feet. Meet at 9 a.m. in the east side parking lot at Cranberry Lake near the main entrance to Deception Pass State Park 6.2 miles for the basic loop hike; add 4.0 miles if you hike on beach south to the naval station border (10.2 miles); You may leave when your car or people has returned to the trailhead. Discover pass required to park in the park. **NOTE: HAVE EAR PROTECTION WITH YOU IN CASE THE WHIDBEY JETS ARE FLYING LOW AND LOUD.**

**MARCH 14: LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN PRESERVE AND/OR STIMPSON FAMILY NATURE RESERVE**-The Lookout Mountain trail is on the east side of Lookout Mountain above Lake Whatcom. It opened in 2013. Basic loop is 5.8 miles which includes a side trail to a lookout; elevation gain is 1000 feet. One may also hike additional miles on the log road system above the Preserve. The Lookout Mountain trailhead is located a mile or so south of the Stimpson Family Nature Reserve on the Lake Louise Road. Whatcom County hikers should drive directly to the trailhead. Other hikers meet at the Chuckanut Drive Park-n-Ride in Burlington at 8:30 am. These people will drive to the trailhead by way of the Alger-Caine Lake Road, the South Lake Whatcom Boulevard and the Lake Louise Road. Stimpson Family Nature Reserve maps will be given out at the Lookout Mountain trailhead. We will meet at the trail head about 9 am. You may leave when your group returns to the car. No dogs are allowed at the Stimpson Family Nature Preserve.

**MARCH 21: AROUND MOUNT ERIE- Mount Erie Base Circumference Hike** - Hike around the base of Mount Erie through forests. On its south side are occasional views of lakes, straits, bays, passages and islands. Lots of ups and downs for 1300 ft. elevation gain. 6.3 mile loop or 6.6 with side trip to Whistle Lake view. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot at the Sugarloaf trailhead near the start of the Mt. Erie Road off the Heart Lake Road located south of Anacortes. Estimated return time is 1:00 p.m. You may leave when you return to the trailhead. There may be an option to hike up Mount Erie from the south side if a guide is available. Portions of this steep trail include minor scrambling.

**MARCH 28: PINE AND CEDAR LAKES AND RAPTOR RIDGE**-Hike to two very pleasant lakes in the Chuckanut Mountain area. Up to 9.4 miles one-way with shuttle cars. 1900 ft. total elevation gain. The 1.7 mile uphill route from the Pine/Cedar Trailhead is steep. The 5.4 mile down-hill route via the new Raptor Ridge Trail down to the Lost Lake Trail and then on down to the North Chuckanut parking lot is less steep and will lead to Arroyo Park, the Interurban Trail, and finally the North Chuckanut parking lot. **Meet at 9:00 a.m.** at the North Chuckanut parking lot located off Chuckanut Drive just north of California Street at about milepost 18.5. At that time we will pool rides to the Pine/Cedar Lakes trailhead based on what time one wishes to arrive at the North Chuckanut parking lot at the end of the day. Then, someone will need to shuttle drivers back to the Pine/Cedar Lakes trailhead. First return to the North Chuckanut Trail head will be 2:30 pm; second return will be 3:00 pm. Hikers may leave when they return to the cars except for those who will be involved in shuttling drivers back to the Pine/Cedar Lakes trailhead.

**APRIL 4: LILY LIZARD LAKES LOOP (The LLLL)**-The Loop hike directions are written in a clock-wise order. On Blanchard Mountain hike the Lily Lake, Larry Reed, and Max's Shortcut Trails to Lily Lake and then on to Lizard Lake by way of a connector trail from the North Butte Trail. Return to trail head via the Lizard and Lily Lake Trails. 8.6 mile loop, 1600 ft. total elevation gain. Opportunity to go to the Oyster Dome and the North Butte as well. We will divide into a faster and slower group; car pool accordingly. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Chuckanut Drive park-n-ride, exit 231 from I-5 on the east side of I-5. 2:00 pm return to trailhead for the faster group; 3:00 pm for the slower group. Discover Pass required to park at the trailhead.



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## GARDENING FOR BIRDS – Attracting Birds to the Garden

BY JANE BRANDT with photo of Anna's Hummingbird by Joe Halton

### Evergreen Winter Blooming Nonnative Plants to Supply Nectar for Anna's Hummingbirds

**Mahonia x media**---'Arthur Menzies' and 'Charity'. Shrubs up to 15 feet tall with large sprays of yellow flowers.

**Arbutus unedo** --- may grow to 25 feet. Native to the Mediterranean region, and related to the Pacific Madrone. Clusters of small white/pink urn shaped flowers.

**Arbutus unedo compacta**---cultivar up to 10 feet

**Sarcococca species**---heavily scented clusters of

small white flowers starting to bloom

December/January

### **Sarcococca**

**ruscifolia**----up to three feet tall and **Sarcococca humilis**----12-18 inches tall

**Hellebores**---nectar supplier during initial bloom period. Varieties bloom from December through spring.



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## FIELD TRIPS – continued from page 1

any later into March the raptors will start moving out, but we should still find lots of waterfowl while a few songbirds will be starting to sing in earnest, (if we get the weather). Meet at the parking lot behind the Padilla Bay Interpretive center to carpool. We'll go out on Samish flats to watch for raptors and try and save a little time for forest or hedgerows to work on our early spring bird song recognition. Bring scopes and Discover Pass if you have them.

Leader: Libby Mills, [libbymills@gmail.com](mailto:libbymills@gmail.com)

**Saturday, March 17, 2018**

### North Camano Island Birding

**8:00 am – 2:00 pm**

Come and join us for the north Camano Island tour. We will meet at the Stanwood Starbucks parking lot and leave at 8am staying out until about 2pm. We will tour areas such as English Boom, Utsalady boat launch, Maple Grove county park and maybe check the grassy fields for early Whimbrels. If time and energy allow we will check out Iverson Spit. Alice Turner and Pam Pritzl will be leading this adventure

with some assistance from Jeff Osmundson. Arrive early enough to organize car pools as parking is limited in several locations. Lunches or snacks advised. Scopes would be helpful.

Reply to: [alicet2@msn.com](mailto:alicet2@msn.com) (Alice Turner) to confirm.



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## UPCOMING 2018 BIRDING FESTIVALS

**Wings Over Water Birding Fest:** Mar. 16-18; Blaine, WA; more info: [www.wingsoverwaterbirdingfestival.com](http://www.wingsoverwaterbirdingfestival.com)

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Olympic Bird Fest:** Apr. 13-15; Dungeness River Audubon Center, Sequim, WA; more info: [www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org)

**Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival:** Apr. 27-28; Hoquiam, WA; more info: [www.shorebirdfestival.com](http://www.shorebirdfestival.com) and 360.289.5048

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Education Committee needs volunteers to help with a number of adult presentations coming up in the next several months. These Power Point presentations are scheduled at libraries and private organizations/clubs in the area. If you can help give part of a presentation (already written), that would be great; or, you can assist with the computer and help answer questions from the audience. If you can lend a hand, please contact Sheila at [skagiteducation2@gmail.com](mailto:skagiteducation2@gmail.com).



# SKAGIT AUDUBON FIELD NOTES

BY PAM PRITZL

This column reports submitted sightings. Any rare sightings should be accompanied by detailed written documentation and if possible a photograph. A second person to verify rare sightings is extremely helpful. Do not hesitate to call any observer to help document unusual sightings. Also do not hesitate to call if you need clarification on locations.

Please submit your sightings to [birdsightings@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:birdsightings@skagitaudubon.org).

For recent updates on bird sightings, check out ABA Tweetters and Skagit County Ebird List on the SAS website (Birding menu, Bird Sightings Submenu).

## WATERFOWL

**Eurasian Wigeon** 1 on Sullivan Rd on 1-15 (AW)

**Canvasback** 5 on Big Lake on 1-27 (GB)

**Redhead** 1 on Big Lake on 1-27 (GB); 2 on Cranberry Lake, Deception Pass SP on 2-12 (PP)

## GREBES

**Eared Grebe** 1 off Similk Beach on 2-3 (GB)

## PIGEONS and DOVES

**Band-tailed Pigeon** 1 in nearby trees at east Fidalgo home on 1-19 (RW)

## SANDPIPERS and ALLIES

**Black Turnstone** 5 at Rosario Head on 2-12 (PP)

**Surfbird** 2 at Rosario Head on 2-3 (GB); 5 at Rosario Head on 2-10 (GB); 3 at Rosario Head on 2-12 (PP)

**Dunlin** 1500 at Fir Island Farms (Hayton) on 2-13 (PP)

**Spotted Sandpiper** 1 at Rosario Head on 2-10 (GB)

## ALCIDS

**Ancient Murrelet** 6 at Samish Island Public Beach on 2-3 (GB)

## GULLS and TERNS

**Western Gull** 1 in Burlington on 2-3 (GB)

**Herring Gull** 1 on Samish Flats on 1-24 and 1-28 (GB)

**Iceland Gull** 1 "Thayer's" in Burlington on 2-3 (GB)

## LOONS

**Red-throated Loon** 600 at West Beach, Deception Pass SP on 2-13 (PP)

## HAWKS, EAGLES and ALLIES

**Bald Eagle** 6 at east Stanwood home on 2-10 (MS)

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** 1 adult at east Fidalgo home on 1-22 (RW); 1 at east Stanwood home on 1-29 (MS); 1 juvenile at east Fidalgo home on 2-16 (RW)

**Cooper's Hawk** 1 juvenile at east Fidalgo home on 2-8 (RW); 1 adult female at east Fidalgo home on 2-9 (RW); 1 adult male at east Fidalgo home on 2-15 (RW)

**Rough-legged Hawk** 1 dark morph on Sullivan Rd on 1-13 (AW)

**Golden Eagle** 1 near Snow Goose Produce on Fir Island on 2-11 (LM); 1 on entrance road to Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 2-12 (SAS); 1 at Fir Island Farms (Hayton), eating a rabbit on 2-13 (MDBP)

## OWLS

**Great Horned Owl** duet at east Fidalgo home on 1-22 (RW); hooting in late evening at east Stanwood home on 2-15 (MS); hooting at Camano Island home on 2-16 and 2-17 (PP)

**Short-eared Owl** 1 at Port Susan Bay Nature Conservancy (restricted) on 2-3 (SAS--Arlington Eagle Fest)

## WOODPECKERS

**Red-breasted Sapsucker** 1 at Anacortes home on 1-22 (JB); 1 at east Fidalgo home on 2-11 (RW); 2 at east Fidalgo home on 2-16 (RW)

## FALCONS

**Merlin** 1 in Edison on 1-24 (AW); 1 in Edison on 1-31 (AW); 1 in Edison on 2-11 (AW); 1 in Edison on 2-14 (AW)

**Gyr Falcon** 1 on Best Rd on 1-16 (PP); 1 on Best Rd on 1-24 (AW); 1 on McClean Rd on 1-31 (AW); 1 on Young Rd on 2-9 (AW); 1 on Young Rd on 2-14 (AW)

**Peregrine Falcon** 1 on Young Rd on 2-14 (AW)

**Prairie Falcon** 1 on Sunset Rd on 1-24 (AW); 1 on Sunset Rd on 1-31 (AW); 1 at West 90 on 1-31 (AW)

## FLYCATCHERS

**Black Phoebe** 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area on 2-12 (SAS)

## VIREOS

**Hutton's Vireo** 1 in Hamilton on 2-4 (GB); 1 heard at east Fidalgo home on 2-11 (RW)

## SWALLOWS

**Tree Swallow** 4 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 2-13 (PP)

**Barn Swallow** 4 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 1-21 (GB); 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 2-12 (SAS); 8 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 2-13 (PP)

*Field Sightings continued on pg. 6*



Field Sightings continued from pg. 5

#### CREEPERS

**Brown Creeper** 2 at east Stanwood home on 2-10 (MS)

#### DIPPERS

**American Dipper** 2 at upper Pilchuck River on 2-8 (JS)

#### THRUSHES

**Varied Thrush** 2 at east Stanwood home on 2-10 (MS)

#### FINCHES and ALLIES

**Evening Grosbeak** 1 at Camano Island home on 2-10 (SRP)

**Purple Finch** 1 calling at east Fidalgo home on 1-16 (RW)

**Common Redpoll** numerous reports as irruption continues, including 40 at Howard Miller Steelhead Park on 2-11 (GB); a flock of 20 on the Guemes Trail in Anacortes on 2-15 (JB)

#### SPARROWS and ALLIES

**Lincoln's Sparrow** 1 at west end of Rawlins Rd on 2-14 (RW)

#### WARBLERS

**Orange-crowned Warbler** 1 visiting Burlington yard the past week (LE)

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** 1 "Audubon's" at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 1-28 (GB); 1 female on Guemes Trail, Anacortes on 1-29 (JB)

(GB) Gary Bletsch; (MDBP) Mary & Don Brady-Power; (JB) Jane Brandt; (LE) Larry Edwards; (LM) Libby Mills; (SRP) Sheila and Ron Pera; (PP) Pam Pritzl; (JS) Jeff Sinker; (MS) Mary Sinker; (SAS) Skagit Audubon Society Field Trip; (AW) Andrea Warner; (RW) Regan Weeks

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## SKAGIT AUDUBON CONSERVATION REPORT - MARCH

BY TIM MANNIS with Bald Eagle photo by Jeff Sinker

As the March issue of *The Skagit Flyer* appears, the Washington State Legislature's session will be just a week from its scheduled March 8<sup>th</sup> finish. At this writing in mid-February, several of Audubon Washington's legislative priorities are still in play: banning new Atlantic salmon net pens and phasing out existing leases, establishing a 100% clean energy standard for power production, putting a price on carbon pollution, and more. For current information, go to Audubon Washington State Director Gail Gatton's reports at <http://wa.audubon.org/conservation/legislative-session-2018>.

**Preserve the Migratory Bird Treaty Act:** At the national level, Audubon's top two Congressional priorities need support from all of us. First is fending off attempts by the administration and Congress to weaken what National Audubon calls "America's cornerstone bird conservation law." This is the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA), passed a century ago in the same year the last Carolina parakeet died. Since the extinction of that beautiful native North American bird, the MBTA has provided the only protection for over 900 bird species not covered by other laws. The act implemented a treaty with Canada and later Mexico, Japan, and Russia. It protects birds by making it unlawful to kill, hunt, sell, or possess most native avian species in the U.S., along with their nests, eggs, and feathers, without a permit.



There are many modern threats to birds such as colliding with communications towers, power lines, and wind machines; becoming fouled by oil spills and in oil waste pits; being poisoned by pesticides; and more. Under the MBTA, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service requires industry and utility companies to take reasonable measures to limit bird deaths as much as possible. Hence, you see the "firefly" devices which Puget Sound Energy fastens to power lines in Skagit County to help swans avoid them, and you see devices atop power poles to prevent raptors from electrocution when they perch. Under the act, BP is paying a \$100 million dollar fine for the over one million birds killed by the Deepwater Horizon spill, funds that will help restore damaged wetlands. Last December, the administration issued a radically different interpretation of the MBTA departing from the consensus understanding of many years and exempting all unintentional deaths of birds. And now in Congress, H.R. 4239, the SECURE American Energy Act, has language to make this interpretation permanent, removing

*Conservation Report continued on pg. 7*



*Conservation Report continued from pg. 6*

any accountability for industrial activities that kill birds and erasing any incentive to prevent bird deaths.

This is the greatest threat to our most important bird protection measure in its hundred-year history. Please add your voice by urging your Member of Congress to uphold a strong MBTA. There's an easy way to do this via the National Audubon Action Center: go to [www.audubon.org/takeaction](http://www.audubon.org/takeaction). Then click on "Defend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act."

**Renew the Land and Water Conservation Fund:** The other top National Audubon priority for Congress this year is renewal of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) before it expires September 30<sup>th</sup>. Since its bi-partisan establishment by Congress in 1965, the LWCF has been the main source of federal funds for acquiring public lands ranging from national to state, county, and city parks and other protected areas and recreational sites and facilities. Every state and almost every county in the U.S. has benefitted. The money comes almost entirely from fees paid for existing off-shore oil and gas leases. It's no surprise, unfortunately, that there are those in political power today who oppose the very notion of public lands ownership even though as population grows, the need for places to experience the natural world and to recreate becomes ever greater. You can see the state and local park projects the LWCF has paid for in Skagit County at <http://projects.invw.org/data/lwcf/grants-wa.html>. The Fund has also made multiple additions here to North Cascades National Park and to the Skagit Wild & Scenic River System, managed by the U.S. Forest Service. In Washington, state funds are used to match LWCF money and do even more for state and local parks. Many of these public areas protect important habitat for birds and other wildlife while also providing diverse benefits for people. To allow the destruction of this program with its long, bi-partisan history of success would be a tragic mistake for which future generations would, and should, hold us accountable.

What can you do? Urge our senators and members of Congress to support permanent reauthorization for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) by cosponsoring H.R.502/S.569. Go to <http://www.audubon.org/takeaction> and click on "Support Land and Water Conservation" or, better yet, call them or send your own email or letter.

**Additional conservation issues:** For information on additional conservation issues of concern to Skagit Audubon, see the Conservation Notes posted on the chapter website: <http://skagitaudubon.org/> at the conservation tab.

**2018 GREAT AMERICAN ARCTIC BIRDING CHALLENGE**

During the spring months, birds migrate from all over the United States to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other ecologically rich areas of Alaska's Arctic. Birds rely on the Arctic for nesting, breeding, staging, and molting. For more information and to download the Arctic bird checklist, visit [www.audubonalaska.org](http://www.audubonalaska.org).

**SECRETIVE WETLAND BIRD SPECIES SURVEY – VOLUNTEERS ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE**

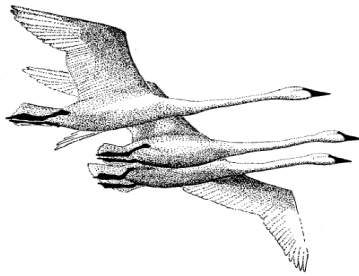
Puget Sound Bird Observatory conducts a spring broadcast survey to detect the presence or absence of secretive wetland bird species like American Bittern, Sora, Virginia Rail and Green Heron. Survey sites range from south Skagit County to north Pierce County. Training sessions offered on March 17<sup>th</sup> and March 25<sup>th</sup>. For details on the project, contact Cindy Easterson by email at: [contact@pugetsoundbirds.org](mailto:contact@pugetsoundbirds.org) or by phone at 425.876.1055.

**UPCOMING EVENT  
SKAGIT AUDUBON – APRIL PROGRAM**

**Patagonia and Chile: Birds and Mammals at the End of the Americas  
Presented by Claudio Vidal  
April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm  
Padilla Bay Interpretive Center**



**SKAGIT AUDUBON SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 1101  
MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273**



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**SWAN HOTLINE for sick, dead or injured swans – do not handle birds – call WDFW 360.466.4345 ext. 266**

*March 2018 Calendar*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Feb. 26	Feb. 27	Feb. 28	1	2	3
4	5	6 Field Trip PADILLA BAY AND SAMISH FLATS SAS Board Meeting 7:00 PM	7 Hike: GOOSE ROCK	8	9	10
11	12	13 SAS General Meeting 7:00 PM Social; 7:30 PM Program	14 Hike: LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN	15	16	17 Field Trip NORTH CAMANO ISLAND
18	19	20	21 Hike: AROUND MT ERIE	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Hike: PINE AND CEDAR LAKES	29	30	31
Apr. 1	Apr. 2	Apr. 3	Apr. 4 Hike: LILY LIZARD LAKES LOOP	Apr. 5	Apr. 6	Apr. 7

Visit the Skagit Audubon Society Website at [www.skagitaudubon.org](http://www.skagitaudubon.org) The Skagit Flyer is printed on recycled paper

